

Message Text

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EUR/IB - MR. RABENOLD

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S/S - MR. FRY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 074513

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:XGDS

TAGS:MARR,PO,US

SUBJECT: AZORES NEGOTIATIONS - LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO
FOREIGN MINISTER PATRICIO

REF.: (A) LISBON 1199 (B) STATE 54891

1. PLEASE DELIVER TO FOREIGN MINISTER PATRICIO FOLLOWING
LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY: " DEAR MR. MINISTER: I HAVE
RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 7, WHICH WAS DELIVERED BY
AMBASSADOR THEMIDO TO DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH ON MARCH 18,
REGARDING OUR DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE CONTINUED PRESENCE
OF UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE AZORES.

I REGRET THAT YOU REGARD THE OFFER MADE TO AMBASSADOR
THEMIDO BY DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH ON FEBRUARY 8 AS A WHOLLY
NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST. INDEED IT WAS OUR VIEW
THAT IT DEMONSTRATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO ADOPT A FORTHCOMING
ATTITUDE TOWARD YOUR STATED NEEDS. IN THE LIGHT OF CONGRES-
SIONAL INTERESTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, ANY SUBSTANTIAL
PROVISION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PORTUGAL MUST HAVE
THE APPROVAL OF CONGRESS AND SUCH APPROVAL CAN CERTAINLY
NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. THEREFORE, ONLY PRIOR CONSUL-

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TATION WITH SELECTED CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS WOULD ENABLE US

TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THIS ROUTE COULD BE PURSUED WITH ANY HOPE OF PRACTICAL RESULTS. IT WAS WITH THESE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH SPOKE TO YOUR AMBASSADOR ON FEBRUARY 8.

DURING HIS TALK WITH MR. RUSH ON MARCH 18, AMBASSADOR THEMIDO EXPRESSED YOUR GOVERNMENT'S PESSIMISM REGARDING THE PROSPECTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE PRESENCE OF UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE AZORES. I DO NOT SHARE THIS PESSIMISM. I BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE IN GOOD FAITH WAYS OF SATISFYING THE DESIRES SET FORTH BY YOUR GOVERNMENT. I COULD POINT TO OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT WITH THE CONGRESS REGARDING MILITARY EQUIPMENT, OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PROCLAIMED STATE OF "GUINEA-BISSAU", AND OUR POSTURE IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH RESPECT TO UNFAIR ATTACKS ON PORTUGAL.

IN ADDITION, WE ARE PREPARED TO PURSUE PROMPTLY AND IN A SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY THE SUGGESTION PUT FORWARD IN THE MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR THEMIDO AND DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH ON MARCH 18 THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES DEVISE NEW WAYS OF COOPERATING IN SUCH AREAS AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INDUSTRY, EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY. WITH IMAGINATION AND GOOD PLANNING WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS WHICH COULD BE OF BENEFIT TO ALL SEGMENTS OF PORTUGUESE SOCIETY AND WHICH SHOULD BE ABLE TO EVOKE THE SUPPORT OF CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AMBASSADOR THEMIDO HAS OFFERED TO ELICIT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT FOR SUCH PROGRAMS AND WE AWAIT WITH INTEREST SUCH SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS AS YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE.

I CAN PROMISE YOU THAT WE WILL GIVE THOSE PROPOSALS PROMPT AND SYMPATHETIC STUDY. AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO COME TO EARLY AGREEMENT ON THE RENEWAL OF U.S. PEACETIME RIGHTS AT LAJES. BEST REGARDS. HENRY A. KISSINGER."

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2. LETTER IS DATED APRIL 11, 1974 AND BEARS SECRET CLASSIFICATION.

3. SIGNED ORIGINAL BEING AIR POUCHED.

4. COPY OF LETTER GIVEN ALSO TO PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON. KISSINGER

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